20. A vacancy will soon arise in the Legislative Council, consequent on the expiry of the term of Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, who was returned by the members of the Quilon Division. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the members of that Division will now meet under the presidency of the Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, to elect a representative, whose name will be submitted to His Highness for consideration.

21. **Police.**—On the reversion of Mr. F. S. S. George to the British service, the Madras Government kindly lent the services of Mr. C. B. Cunningham for employment as the Commissioner of Police in Travancore, and that officer assumed charge of his duties in Chingam 1091. The strength of the force stood at 1,854 at the close of 1090, giving a ratio of one policeman for every four square miles. There was a decrease of 23 in the number of policemen prosecuted as compared with 1089, while the percentage of conviction was four against six in the previous year. Although 56 policemen were prosecuted by the public, not one of those cases ended in conviction. In this connection, I cannot help repeating the observation made last year that the Magistrates are not alive to their duty in the matter of awarding compensation to the accused, in cases in which they are convinced that the complaints preferred are false. The percentages of conviction in respect of persons and of recovery in respect of property, leave considerable room for improvement. The Government are glad to observe that Mr. Cunningham has already recognised this and proposes to take steps to secure better percentages in future years.

22. **Central Prison.**—The total number of prisoners of all classes at the end of 1090 was 548, against 557 at its beginning. It is unfortunate that the number of deaths rose from 18 to 25 and of admissions into the hospital from 308 to 698, the majority of cases under both the heads being on account of diseases of the digestive system. Early steps will be taken to grapple with the root causes of this evil. The Superintendent is being deputed to study the working of the Penitentiary at Madras and the District Jail at Palamcottah.

23. **Criminal Justice.**—An additional First Class Magistrate's Court has been established as a temporary measure at Perumbavoor, with jurisdiction over the five northernmost taluks of Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Kunnatnad, Alangad, and Parur. The District Munsiff of Kanjirapalli was re-invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate. To afford relief to the Tahsildars of Changanachery and Shencottah in their work, the Deputy Tahsildars of those taluks were invested with third class magisterial powers. The number of offences reported fell from 19,618 to 19,353 and the percentage of convictions from 32 to 31. The number of juveniles convicted rose from 18 to 26, of whom only 10 or 38 per cent were committed to the Reformatory. Some of the Magistrates have to be reminded of the existence of this institution in Trivandrum. The number of public servants convicted fell from 17 to 8, the percentage of conviction being 4 against 7 in 1089. The Magistrates have ample powers under the law to put down frivolous and vexatious prosecutions, and it should be their endeavour not to shrink from the free exercise of those powers.

24. **Civil Justice.**—The temporary Second Judge's Court which was working at Parur, has been recently transferred to Alleppey. The term of one year for which the Munsiff-Magistrate's Court at Devicolam was sanctioned, having expired in Edavam 1090, its continuance for another year was sanctioned. The institutions of the year showed a decrease of 2,960 cases under original suits and an increase of 550 cases under appeals.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

25. **Agriculture.**—The Department of Agriculture continued to do good work. For detailed information as to the several measures initiated by the department during the year to improve the agricultural condition of the people, I would invite your attention to Dr. Kunjen Pillai's exhaustive report, copies of which have been ordered to be placed in your hands. A paddy farm was opened at Nagercoil and it is p

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posed to carry on plant-breeding work in that farm. A manure depot was opened at Muvattupuzha, to serve the ryots of the Muvattupuzha and Kunnatnad taluks. Manurial experiments on paddy were conducted on an extensive scale and considerable progress was made in the transplantation of paddy. It is gratifying to note that some of the ryots have begun to co-operate with the department in popularising new varieties of paddy. The cultivation of the cocoanut, tapioca, sugarcane, and pepper also has received the special attention of the department. Experiments on sericulture were continued in the Silk Farm at Trivandrum, and a new mulberry plantation was opened at Kaipattur. The cultivation of ground-nut and guinea-grass is making steady progress. The ryots have begun to realise the importance of manure as a factor in intensive cultivation, and the manures sold by the department are gaining in popularity. It may be stated here that, as fresh areas for the extension of paddy cultivation are limited, the people should try their best to enhance the yield from the existing paddy lands by adopting improved methods of manuring and other scientific methods of cultivation. The Department of Agriculture is always ready to render help in this direction. The opposition of the ryots to the use of the light iron ploughs is fast disappearing and large numbers of that plough are now being purchased by them. New ideas in regard to agriculture are being disseminated by the department among the ryots, by answers to queries on agricultural subjects, distribution of agricultural leaflets, and by popular lectures and the publication of a vernacular quarterly journal.

26. **Fishery.**—Two Fishery Officers, who had been deputed to undergo a course of training under Sir Frederick Nicholson, returned after training. One of them was appointed as Inspector of Fisheries and the other as Inspector of Fish Industries. The development of fisheries on scientific lines promises to be of benefit both to the State and the people. Orders have been passed on the departmental report submitted on the subject. The experimental fish-curing yard opened at Muttam was continued for a further period of one year. The prejudice against the dry method of curing is reported to be wearing off and there is promise of operations on an extended scale next year. The question of transferring this fish-curing yard from the control of the Excise Department to that of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries is under contemplation.

27. **Co-operative Societies.**—Mr. C. Govinda Pillai, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who had been deputed to undergo a course of training in Madras, returned after training and resumed charge of his duties towards the close of 1090. An office staff was sanctioned for the Registrar and an Inspector of Co-operative Societies appointed to assist him in his work. The Registrar has been touring through the different taluks of the State for the purpose of popularising the co-operative movement. Eight societies have been registered up to the close of Makaram 1091. Of these, one, "The Trivandrum Central Co-operative Bank," is doing banking business, and another, "The Trivandrum Co-operative Distributive Society", is a distributive society. The other six, of which two are at Karunagapalli, one at Mavelikara, and the remaining three at Kartikapalli, are credit societies and have been started purely on the co-operative principle. The bye-laws of these societies have been published in the Gazette. I may state here that the success of this beneficial movement depends almost entirely upon the people themselves and all that the department can do is to guide and assist them.

28. **Industries.**—The development of the industries of the State is also engaging the attention of the Government, and as promised by me in my reply to one of the respresentations last year, steps are being taken to secure the services of a competent expert, to undertake an industrial survey of the State and to formulate a definite scheme of action for the Government.

29. **Trade.**—The total value of the external trade was Bh. Rs. 7,11,57,523, of which 59·8 per cent or Bh. Rs. 4,18,20,726 represented the exports. The *per capita* value of the exports fell from Bh. Rs. 12·3 to Bh. Rs. 12·2, while that of the imports rose from Bh. Rs. 8·2 to Bh. Rs. 8·5. The trade in the produce of the cocoanut tree showed a decrease of Rs. 39,78,088, as compared with 1089.

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30. **Marine.**—The question of the development of sea-ports had been, for some time past, engaging the serious attention of Government, and as a first step, it was resolved to place Alleppey, the premier port of the State, under a Port Officer with nautical experience. The Madras Government having kindly lent the services of Lieutenant Commander W. L. Kelly, R. N. R., he was appointed Port Officer at Alleppey, and he took charge of his duties in March 1915. The Marine Section was separated from the Excise Department and constituted into a separate department. Besides controlling the shipping, management of the pier, etc., at Alleppey, Lieut. Kelly also directs the work at the Trivandrum, Quilon, Colachel and Srimulapuram ports. The port of Alleppey has not been developing in the manner and to the extent that may be expected, notwithstanding its many undoubted natural advantages, and the Government hope that under Lieut. Kelly its condition will improve.

31. **Public Works.**—The total expenditure on Public Works amounted to Rs. 38,50,872, of which a sum of Rs. 34,63,050 was spent by the Chief Engineer's Department, and Rs. 3,87,822 by the Maramat Department. The number of divisions and sub-divisions remained the same, but the number of sections was reduced from 56 to 53. The total outlay on original works and special repairs amounted to Rs. 21,58,492 and that on maintenance to Rs. 7,46,957. The length of the main roads and village roads maintained during the year was 2,521 miles and 1,705 miles, respectively. Among the important original works of the year may be mentioned the re-construction of the platform of the Kuzhittura bridge, finished during the year at a total cost of Rs. 1,96,066, the opening of a portion of the canal from Alleppey to Shertalay, the outlay on which to the end of the year was Rs. 2,45,692, the improvement to the first and second sections of the Commercial Canal at Alleppey, the expenditure on which up to the end of 1090 amounted to Rs. 2,90,142, and the different works in connection with the construction of the Women and Children's Hospital at Trivandrum, which absorbed Rs. 1,07,958, during 1090. Only a mile each at either end of the canal from Alleppey to Shertalay has been now completed. The remaining portion of the work has been held in abeyance, owing to the prohibitive cost of construction and the abnormal recurring cost of maintenance, and the Chief Engineer has been asked to advise the Government as to whether a gravelled road or a light railway is not more feasible. The construction of the Women and Children's Hospital has been practically completed and it will be soon handed over to the Medical Department. The [illegible]ions for constructing a bridge over the Rani river at Chengannur, for tracing a cart-line through the Cardamom Hills and for diverting the Palaruvi into the Shencottah taluk were proceeded with.

32. **Railway.**—All the lands required for the Extension of the Railway from Quilon to Trivandrum were acquired and handed over to the South Indian Railway Company and the construction of the line is in progress. The amount spent by the Government on the Extension to the end of 1090 was Rs. 18,75,085, and up to the end of December 1915, Bh. Rs. 23,86,436. You will remember that the original estimate for the construction of the line was Bh. Rs. 29,72,252. This estimate, however, has been found, from later experience, to be far from adequate and a revised estimate for Bh. Rs. 54,02,579, forwarded by the South Indian Railway Company, is now being considered by the Government. For several reasons, it was not found feasible to push on with the work expeditiously and hence the construction of the line could not be completed before the close of 1915, as originally expected. Every attention is being devoted to this important subject and the construction of the Railway will, on no account, be needlessly delayed.

33. **Anchal.**—There was an increase in the number of covers posted, both private and official, 72 per cent of the increase being under the former head. The total length of the mail line at the end of the year was 1,285 miles and the total length of the motor service 123 miles. The number of offices and letter-boxes rose from 210 and 279 to 211 and 294, respectively. All the offices were transacting hundi business, the total value of the hundies issued being Rs. 27,50,680, against Rs. 25,75,657 in 1089. The Savings Bank system was extended to five more offices.

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Half-chackram embossed covers were introduced and the introduction of the four cash service stamps was sanctioned. The receipts of the Anchal Department amounted to Rs. 1,89,954, while the cost of working the department was Rs. 1,74,849. It will be thus seen that the department is now more than self-supporting.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

34. **Vaccination.**—The total number of vaccinations performed during the year fell from 2,40,313 to 2,19,631, of which as many as 1,92,005 were primary vaccinations. The number of cases verified by the inspecting staff also fell from 81,113 to 61,198; but in this case the fall was only nominal, as the cases vaccinated in the presence of the inspecting officers were left out of account. The number of infants successfully vaccinated rose from 9,589 to 12,648. Vaccination is now compulsory in seven municipal towns. The question of introducing compulsory vaccination in some more towns is under the consideration of the Government.

35. **Town Improvement Committees.**— The number of towns constituted under the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation remained the same, *viz.*, 19. The rate-payers of the towns of Nagercoil, Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam, Shencottah and Kayankulam continued to enjoy the privilege of electing all the non-official members of those Committees. The administration of the town of Alleppey under its non-official President was highly satisfactory. The question of appointing non-official Presidents to some other towns is engaging the attention of Government. The Committees began with a balance of Rs. 49,218, and their collections rose from Rs. 80,224 to Rs. 93,997. Including the Government grant of Rs. 45,338, the total amount available for expenditure was Rs. 1,88,553, of which a sum of Rs. 1,29,265 was spent, leaving a balance of Rs. 59,288 at the close of the year. The Government are watching the working of these Committees with interest, and where necessary, they will have no objection to granting additional powers to the Committees.

EDUCATION.

36. **Statistics.**—Including unrecognised schools, the total number of educational institutions in the State during 1090 was 3,243 and their strength 3,06,753. The percentage of pupils in all denominations of schools to the total population was 8·9 and to the number of children of school-going age 59·6. There was on an average one recognised school for every 3·5 square miles of the area and for every 1,684 persons of the population of the State. 73·2 per cent of the boys and 29 per cent of the girls of school-going age were under instruction in recognised schools. Devicolam is the only taluk with less than 30 per cent of its children of school-going age attending school, while Tiruvalla, which takes the second rank among the taluks of the State in point of population, shows the greatest progress, with 99·8 per cent of its children of school-going age attending recognised schools. In this connection, it will be of interest to you to know that the last Administration Report of Baroda states that "Travancore deservedly represents the highest water-mark yet obtained in India by the voluntary principle in education."

37. **Personnel.**—In the place of Dr. Bishop, who proceeded to England on leave preparatory to retirement, Mr. L. C. Hodgson was appointed to act as Director of Public Instruction, and in place of Mr. Hodgson, Mr. A. R. Rajaraja Varma was appointed to act as the Principal of His Highness the Maha Raja's College. The status of Mr. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Personal Assistant to the Director, was raised and he was appointed Deputy Director of Public Instruction. The Deputy Director is expected to devote special attention to the development and improvement of elementary education. Occasion was taken by this appointment, to reduce the ranges of elementary schools from three to two, temporarily. Mr. B. Walker, M. A., was appointed Additional Professor of English in His Highness the Maha Raja's College, but he has not yet joined duty. Dr. S. G. Barker, appointed Vice-Principal of the Training College, entered on his duties about the middle of 1090.

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